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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

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9 R Charles Bryfogle,

No. CV-21-00546-TUC-RCC

10 Plaintiff,

ORDER

11 v.

12 Tim A Livingston, et al.,

13 Defendants.

14

15 Pending before the Court is Defendants Livingston and Weiberg's Motion to
16 Dismiss (Doc. 31); Defendant Eby's Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 35); and Defendant Dley's
17 Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 36). Defendants Popat and Todd have joined the Motions to
18 Dismiss by Defendants Livingston, Weiberg, and Eby. (Doc. 44.) All Defendants have
19 raised, among other grounds, the lack of subject matter jurisdiction and personal
20 jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(2). (Docs. 31,
21 35–36.) The Court ordered Plaintiff to respond to Defendants' Motions to Dismiss on these
22 jurisdictional grounds. (Doc. 40.) On June 13, 2022, Plaintiff filed his Responses to each
23 of the three pending Motions to Dismiss. (Doc. 47–49.) The deadline to file replies has not
24 yet passed, however, because the Court believes the Motions to Dismiss should be granted,
25 it finds replies would be unnecessary and not aid in resolving the issues.

26 Defendants have requested oral argument. (Docs. 31, 35–36.) The Court has
27 discretion when determining whether to grant oral argument. Fed. R. Civ. P. 78(a); LRCiv
28 7.2(f); *Partridge v. Reich*, 141 F.3d 920, 926 (9th Cir. 1998) ("[A] district court can decide

1 the issue without oral argument if the parties can submit their papers to the court."); *Bach*
 2 *v. Teton Cty. Idaho*, 207 F. App'x 766, 769 (9th Cir. 2006) ("Due process does not require
 3 the district court to hold oral argument before ruling on pending motions."). The Court has
 4 reviewed the briefings and finds that oral argument will not aid in the resolution of the
 5 issues presented. As such, the request for oral argument is denied. For the following
 6 reasons, the Court will grant the Motions to Dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction.

7 **I. Plaintiff's Complaint**

8 On December 22, 2021, Plaintiff Charles R. Bryfogle filed a Complaint against
 9 several Canadian officials including Defendants Tim A. Livingston, Provincial Crown
 10 Counsel; David Eby, British Columbia Attorney General; Neil Weiberg, Deputy Regional
 11 Crown Counsel; Zeeba Popat, Sgt., Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP"); Jonah
 12 Todd, Corporal, RCMP; and Dev Dley, Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court.
 13 (Doc. 1 at 1–2.) Plaintiff's claims stem from his allegations that Defendants participated in
 14 a scheme to illegally use and later suppress wiretap evidence to pursue criminal charges
 15 against Plaintiff in Canada. The factual allegations, to the best of the Court's understanding,
 16 are that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) carried out a wiretap monitoring
 17 Plaintiff's communications in part while he was in Arizona and New Orleans, and that
 18 evidence was later sent from the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
 19 to the RCMP with a warning that it could not be used to support criminal charges.

20 A summary of the allegations against each Defendant, as far as the Court can
 21 ascertain, is as follows: Livingston, as Crown Counsel, allegedly illegally used the wiretap
 22 evidence in criminal proceedings against Plaintiff and then suppressed the evidence. Eby,
 23 as British Columbia Attorney General, allegedly participated in the illegal arrest of Plaintiff
 24 and aided and abetted the suppression of the wiretap evidence. Weiberg, as Deputy Crown
 25 Counsel, allegedly suppressed the wiretap evidence. Popat, as a Sergeant in the RCMP,
 26 allegedly fabricated and misused the wiretap evidence to pursue a sting operation against
 27 Plaintiff based on false evidence. Todd, as a Corporal in the RCMP, allegedly
 28 "reformatted" and "sanitized" the wiretap evidence. Finally, Dley, as Senior Justice of the
 British Columbia Supreme Court, allegedly participated in suppressing the wiretap

1 evidence by issuing a gag order as part of a bail release and allegedly obstructed justice by
 2 refusing to allow a hearing to lift the order.

3 Plaintiff outlines nine counts in his Complaint. In each count, he alleges violations
 4 of both U.S. Criminal Code and Canadian Criminal Code.¹ Plaintiff alleges throughout his
 5 Complaint and Responses that Defendants violated the Electronic Communications
 6 Privacy Act of 1986, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510–22, otherwise known as the "Wiretap Act," which
 7 prohibits the intentional interception of wire, oral, and electronic communication unless
 8 such interception is specifically authorized by a court order. Plaintiff asserts that
 9 Defendants violated § 2515 by illegally using evidence of an intercepted wire
 10 communication, thereby entitling him to civil penalties under § 2520.

11 **II. Standard of Review**

12 ¹ The Court will not list the alleged violations of Canadian law as this Court has no
 13 authority to enforce Canadian law, and Plaintiff repeats in his Responses that he does not
 14 ask this Court to enforce Canadian law. Otherwise, the counts are as follows: Count 1A is
 15 "Use and Abuse of FBI Evidence by Prosecutor and Police" against Defendants Livingston,
 16 Popat, and Todd, alleging violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 402, 1503, 1505, 1963(c), 2511, 2515,
 17 and 2517. Count 1B is "Misuse of FBI Evidence to Entrap and Cover Up After Exposure"
 18 against Defendants Livingston, Popat, Todd, and Eby, alleging violations of §§ 402, 1503,
 19 1505, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and 2517. Count 2A is "Misuse of FBI Evidence to Obstruct
 20 Justice by Perverting the Judicial Process" against Defendants Livingston, Popat, and Eby,
 21 alleging violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 402, 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and
 22 2517. Count 2B is "Misusing the Judicial Process to Bring Illegal Criminal Charges to
 23 Fruition" against Defendant Livingston, alleging violations of §§ 402, 1503, 1505, 1509,
 24 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and 2517. Count 3 is "Criminal Enterprise to Suppress
 25 Disclosure of FBI Evidence and Its Misuse" against Defendants Livingston, Eby, Dley, and
 26 Wiberg, alleging violations of §§ 402, 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and
 27 2517. Count 4 is "Criminal Facilitation to Avoid Addressing Violation of 18 U.S.C. 4 and
 28 2515" against Defendants Livingston, Eby, Weiberg, Popat, Todd, and Dley, alleging
 violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 4, 402, 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and 2517.
 Count 5 is "Criminal Conduct by Defendant Dley to Avoid Disclosure of 2515 Violation"
 against Defendant Dley, alleging violations of §§ 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511,
 2515, and 2517. Count 6 is "Obstruction of the Judicial Process to Avoid Disclosure of
 2515 Breach" against Defendants Livingston, Eby, and Weiberg, alleging violations of §§
 402, 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and 2517. Finally, Count 7 is
 "Interference with and Obstruction of the Judicial Process" against Defendant Dley,
 alleging violations of §§ 402, 1503, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1963(c), 2511, 2515, and 2517.

1 **a. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2)**

2 A court must have both subject matter jurisdiction over the alleged claim *and*
 3 personal jurisdiction over each defendant in a civil action. Thus, a defendant may move to
 4 dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(2). If this occurs, "the
 5 plaintiff bears the burden of demonstrating that jurisdiction is appropriate." *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 800 (9th Cir. 2004) (quoting
 6 *Sher v. Johnson*, 911 F.2d 1357, 1361 (9th Cir. 1990)). The plaintiff must make a prima
 7 facie showing of jurisdiction in the complaint where, as here, there is no evidentiary
 8 hearing. *Id.* A court applies the law of the state in which it sits if there is no applicable
 9 federal statute governing personal jurisdiction. *Id.* "The plaintiff cannot 'simply rest on the
 10 bare allegations of its complaint,' but uncontested allegations in the complaint must be
 11 taken as true." *Mavrix Photo, Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc.*, 647 F.3d 1218, 1223 (9th Cir.
 12 2011) (quoting *id.*).

14 Therefore, to establish personal jurisdiction, a plaintiff must show (1) the state's
 15 long-arm statute confers jurisdiction over the defendant and (2) "the exercise of jurisdiction
 16 comports with the constitutional principles of due process." *See Rio Props., Inc. v. Rio*
17 Intern. Interlink, 284 F.3d 1007, 1019 (9th Cir. 2002). Arizona's long-arm statute extends
 18 personal jurisdiction "to the maximum extent permitted by the . . . Constitution of the
 19 United States;" therefore the Court examines whether, pursuant to the Due Process Clause,
 20 it may exercise personal jurisdiction over each defendant. *See Ariz. R. Civ. P. 4.2(a); Davis*
v. Metro Prod., Inc., 885 F.2d 515, 520 (9th Cir. 1989); *Williams v. Lakeview Co.*, 199
 21 Ariz. 1, 5, 13 P.3d 280, 282 (2000).

23 The Due Process Clause requires a defendant to have sufficient "minimum contacts"
 24 with the forum state such that subjecting the defendant to its jurisdiction does not "offend
 25 traditional conceptions of fair play and substantial justice." *Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington*,
 328 U.S. 310, 316 (1945) (internal quotation marks omitted). "[T]he defendant's conduct
 26 and connection with the forum State [must be] such that he should reasonably anticipate
 27 being haled into court there." *World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson*, 444 U.S. 286,
 28 297, 100 (1980).

1 A defendant may have the requisite "minimum contacts" in two ways. First, a court
 2 may exercise *general jurisdiction* when a defendant's contacts with the forum state are
 3 "continuous and systematic" such that the defendant is at home in the forum state.
 4 *Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408, 415 (1984). Second, a
 5 court may exercise *specific jurisdiction* when "(1) the defendant has performed some act
 6 or consummated some transaction within the forum or otherwise purposefully availed
 7 himself of the privileges of conducting activities in the forum; (2) the claim arises out of
 8 or results from *the defendant's* forum-related activities, and (3) the exercise of jurisdiction
 9 is reasonable." *Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy*, 453 F.3d 1151, 1155 (9th Cir. 2006) (emphasis
 10 added).

11 **III. Discussion**

12 Although they each assert additional grounds for dismissal, all Defendants have
 13 raised the lack of personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2). (Doc. 31, 35–36.) As fully set
 14 forth below, the Court agrees it lacks authority to exercise personal jurisdiction over any
 15 Defendant. Thus, the Court will dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for want of personal
 16 jurisdiction and shall not address the other dismissal grounds raised.

17 Each Defendant contests the accuracy of Plaintiff's factual allegations; however,
 18 they argue that, even if Plaintiff's allegations were true, these allegations rely entirely on
 19 actions purportedly taken by each Defendant in their roles as *Canadian* law enforcement
 20 or judicial officials, in criminal proceedings undertaken and prosecuted in *Canadian* court,
 21 against Plaintiff, as a citizen of *Canada*. (Doc. 31 at 1–8; Doc. 35 at 1–5; Doc. 36 at 2–3.)

22 Plaintiff alleges that he is a "part time resident and owner of property in Tucson[,]
 23 Arizona." (Doc. 1 at 5.) He further alleges that his claims are proper in the District of
 24 Arizona because "the injury to the Plaintiff was initiated in Arizona, carried out in Arizona,
 25 and perpetuated from 2017 to present in the US and Canada." (*Id.* at 3.) Plaintiff responded
 26 separately to each of the three pending Motions to Dismiss. (Docs. 47–49.) His argument
 27 regarding personal jurisdiction, however, is the same for all three. (Doc. 47 at 9–12; Doc.
 28 48 at 7–11; Doc. 49 at 8–12.)

Plaintiff asserts that only the district court can adjudicate claims brought under the

1 federal Wiretap Act and "[t]he clear and plain language of 18 USC 2511 and 2515 proffers
 2 exclusive jurisdiction to a USDC." (Doc. 47 at 9; Doc. 48 at 7–8; Doc. 49 at 8.) He states,
 3 "28 USC 1331 gives original jurisdiction to a US District Court to address claim of breach
 4 of the Federal Wiretap Act . . ." (Doc. 47 at 9; Doc. 48 at 7–8; Doc. 49 at 8.) Thus, Plaintiff
 5 argues, "The sole issue, for the six Canadian defendants, is whether they violated the US
 6 Criminal Code, whether the US Criminal Code proffers premise to compel Canadian
 7 defendants to appear before a USDC; whether US criminal law applies to actions taken in
 8 Canada." (Doc. 47 at 9; Doc. 48 at 7–8; Doc. 49 at 8.)

9 Plaintiff is correct that 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants district courts original jurisdiction
 10 over civil actions arising under federal laws, like § 2520 of the Wiretap Act. § 1331
 11 (authorizing federal question jurisdiction). However, Plaintiff conflates subject matter
 12 jurisdiction with personal jurisdiction. Although the Court "construe[s] *pro se* filings
 13 liberally[,]" *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010), it cannot maintain a suit
 14 where, on the face of the Complaint, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over any
 15 defendant and all Defendants have moved to dismiss on this ground.

16 All the actions alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint, to the extent they may be true,
 17 appear to have occurred entirely in Canada. For purposes of personal jurisdiction, Plaintiff's
 18 contacts with Arizona are irrelevant. The only alleged connection between Plaintiff's
 19 claims against Defendants and Arizona is his allegation that the wiretap—from which the
 20 evidence used in Canada was obtained—began or occurred in part while Plaintiff was in
 21 Arizona. Even accepting this as true, this is not an action taken by Defendants, but rather
 22 by the FBI.² Per the Complaint, the FBI then sent this evidence to the RCMP, warning that
 23 it could only be used for "INTELLIGENCE AND LEAD PURPOSES ONLY." (See,
 24 e.g., Doc. 47-2 at 12.) Plaintiff's present claims arise from his assertion that the use and
 25 subsequent suppression of this evidence in Canada by Canadian officials violated laws that
 26 this Court is authorized to enforce. As previously stated, this does not negate the need for
 27 personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

28 ² Plaintiff does not take issue with the actions of the FBI, stating, "No wrong is attributed
 to the actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation." (Doc. 1 at 5.)

1 Thus, Plaintiff has not made a *prima facie* showing that the minimum contacts exist
 2 for this Court to exercise personal jurisdiction over any Defendant in this case. First, he
 3 has not alleged that Defendants' contacts with Arizona are "continuous and systematic" and
 4 neither does the Court find they are, as there are no alleged contacts between Defendants
 5 and Arizona. Second, Plaintiff has not shown that any of Defendants' alleged actions took
 6 place in Arizona, that Defendants "otherwise purposefully availed [themselves] of the
 7 privileges of conducting activities" in Arizona, or that his claims arise out of Defendants'
 8 "forum-related activities," again because there are none that are discernable. Moreover,
 9 under these circumstances, it would be unreasonable for the Court to exercise jurisdiction
 10 over any Defendant in this matter.

11 If a district court determines that a pleading might be cured by the allegation of other
 12 facts, a pro se litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal
 13 of the action. *See Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127–29 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc). The
 14 Court here does not find that amendment will aid in establishing personal jurisdiction.
 15 Accordingly, the Court will dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint with prejudice for lack of
 16 personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2) and will not address the remaining claims raised
 17 by Defendants' Motions to Dismiss.

18 IV. Attorneys' Fees and Costs

19 Defendants Livingston, Weiberg, Eby, Popat, and Todd not only urge the Court to
 20 dismiss the case, but they also ask the Court to award them their attorneys' fees and costs
 21 "to deter" Plaintiff from filing "frivolous" lawsuits. (Doc. 31 at 2; Doc. 35 at 2.) However,
 22 Defendants have not provided any legal basis, nor further information, for their request for
 23 fees and costs. Therefore, the Court will deny the request without prejudice.

24 V. Conclusion

25 For the reasons outlined above, the Court will dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint with
 26 prejudice. Accordingly,

27 **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendants Livingston, Weiberg, Popat, and Todd's Motion
 28 to Dismiss is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. (Doc. 31.) The claims
 against Defendants Livingston, Weiberg, Popat, and Todd are **DISMISSED WITH**

1 PREJUDICE, but Defendants Livingston, Weiberg, Popat, and Todd's request for
2 attorney's fees and costs is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants Eby, Popat, and Todd's Motion to
4 Dismiss is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. (Doc. 35.) The claims against
5 Defendants Eby, Popat, and Todd are **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**, but Defendants
6 Eby, Popat, and Todd's request for attorney's fees and costs is **DENIED WITHOUT**
7 **PREJUDICE**.

8 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant Dley's Motion to Dismiss is
9 **GRANTED**. (Doc. 36.) The claims against Defendant Dley are **DISMISSED WITH**
10 **PREJUDICE**.

11 || Dated this 21st day of June, 2022.


Honorable Raner C. Collins
Senior United States District Judge